

Message

From: Alannah Hurley [Alannah Hurley <girlasue@gmail.com>]
Sent: 2/22/2012 7:15:01 PM
To: Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Bristol Bay Hearing Question

Good morning Tami,

My name is Alannah Hurley and I'm from Dillingham here in Bristol Bay. After listening to Richard Parkin at the BBNC Village Leadership Workshop this winter and hearing about the upcoming public hearings to be held sometime this spring I have a question regarding testimony at those hearings. From my understanding we are able to testify at the hearings and also submit written comments. After thinking about the best way for my very elderly grandma to participate I have a suggestion. Would it be possible to submit spoken (voice-recorded) testimony along with a written transcript of that persons testimony? I think this would be necessary to ensure that our native elders voices in the region are heard by the EPA. As I'm sure you know the Yup'ik, Denaina, and Alutiq are all oral cultures and this would provide a culturally appropriate avenue in which all of our people can participate. For example, my grandma who is 91 will not be able to make it (as will be the case for many of our elders around the region) to a hearing to testify and also can't write her testimony, so giving her the option to record it and have it transcribed would be ideal for her participation.

I hope the EPA would consider taking voice-recorded/transcribed testimony or that the EPA ensures there is an avenue for all of our native people in region to participate, even those who won't be able to attend a hearing or don't speak and or write in English.

I look forward to hearing from you! You can also reach me via phone at (907) 843-1633.

Thanks,

Alannah